

size of our deficit, but we have to do it in a responsible way and a way that protects American families. We need to do it in a balanced, forward-thinking way that protects our fragile recovery, continues growing jobs for middle class families, and invests in our long-term economic future.

Sequestration isn't a solution. It's a penalty that will put our recovery in jeopardy and hurt working men and women in my home State of Rhode Island and all across this country.

In the last few weeks, we've seen Members of this Chamber wringing their hands and pointing fingers in order to avoid blame for sequestration. It's time to focus on solutions.

Our colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, has offered a proposal that will replace the meat-ax of sequestration with precise, carefully considered changes by enacting responsible cuts in spending, repealing subsidies to big oil companies, implementing the Buffett rule so middle class families don't pay a higher tax rate than millionaires and billionaires, and preserving the Medicare guarantee for our seniors.

After so much conflict and division, let's work together to find an alternative that works for middle class families.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Anniston Army Depot is in my hometown and my district. It serves as a critical installation for our brave warfighters and our Nation.

Now with President Obama's sequester just days away, the depot, along with other vital military installations across our country, faces devastating cuts, possibly resulting in furloughs for already hurting families.

I agree we need to cut spending, and we need to reduce the size of our Federal Government; but I also believe, for our national security and for our warfighters' readiness, we must cut spending in a smarter way.

Friday will mark the beginning of the \$85 billion in Federal cuts across the board this year. I stand here today to urge President Obama to do the right thing: support what the House has done twice and replace these sequester cuts with smarter, more responsible reforms. And let's do it without trying to raise taxes again on the American people in just two months' time.

THE LEGACY OF CARDISS COLLINS, PAST CBC CHAIR

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we lost a true cham-

pion for women, for communities of color, for the entire country.

Elected in 1973, Congresswoman Cardiss Collins soon became a forceful political voice in the House, rising quickly to become chair of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1979. I came to know and to love Cardiss Collins while working as a staffer to Congressman Ron Dellums.

She opened so many doors for African American women elected to Congress now, serving for a time as one of the only African American women. From 1985 to 1991, she was the only Black woman here in the House of Representatives. She broke so many glass ceilings, oftentimes fighting many, many lonely battles with grace and distinction, knowing her power and her strength.

She was a leader in the fight for low-income women's access to reproductive health services. And she fought tirelessly to ensure that women and minorities were treated equally to their counterparts, especially in college athletics, in the insurance industry, government hiring, and at the Smithsonian.

On behalf of Ron Dellums and his staff, we send our condolences and our prayers.

SEQUESTER

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Obama needs to be truthful with the American people about his sequester. First and foremost, President Obama proposed the sequester.

There's no denying that President Obama's sequester will have devastating effects on Ohio, America's military, and our national security. That's why House Republicans acted twice in 2012 to avoid this situation. But, unfortunately, President Obama chose politics over results. He chose to make campaign speeches rather than work with the Republican-controlled House and Democrat-controlled Senate to find commonsense solutions that would end Washington's spending addiction and bring America's debt under control. This is yet another prime example of President Obama's failure to lead, and it needs to change.

Right now, President Obama's sequester is less than 60 hours away, and he's looking to blame somebody else to distract from his failure to lead. House Republicans stand ready to work with the President on commonsense solutions that work for the American people. President Obama simply needs to come to the table.

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JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's been 786 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives has not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. Congress has instead been consumed by a single-minded focus on the Federal budget deficit. Well, I have news for my colleagues: our real deficit is unemployment.

Unemployment is not only the moral crisis of our time—leaving families homeless and dreams destroyed—but also an underlying cause of our Federal Government's increased levels of borrowing. Massive job losses following the 2008 financial crisis left us with fewer tax receipts and more people requiring benefits. There's ultimately only one responsible way to reduce the Federal deficit: get everyone trained, get everyone retrained, get everyone working, and get everyone contributing to the tax base. Jobs, jobs, jobs should be our mantra.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to see that President Obama now recognizes his proposed sequester is a meat-ax approach to cutting defense. Just a few months ago, in the third Presidential debate, he told the American people that these cuts were a well-thought-out plan to modernize the military. He said these cuts were nothing more than the equivalent of no longer spending money on horses and bayonets. He was wrong.

He was correct in the State of the Union in saying some in Congress, meaning House Republicans, want to replace these cuts to our defense, but he wants to replace other spending, as well. My colleagues in the House have offered two replacement bills which the Senate has yet to act on.

Let's not use our brave men and women in uniform and civilian workers who serve them as leverage for other spending. The Constitution states that Congress is to provide for our national defense and the President is Commander in Chief.

I ask the Senate and President Obama to join the House in doing its constitutional duty and replace these devastating defense cuts now.

SEQUESTATION

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, sequestration will have serious consequences for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, which is tremendously important to the economy of western New York.

If Congress does not repeal the sequester, the Air Force will have to delay construction of a \$6.1 million flight simulator at the base, a project